

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL
FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

1. **Contracting Activity:** Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
260 Industrial Way West
Eatontown, NJ 07724
2. **Title of Acquisition:** Online Certificate Service Protocol (OCSP) and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) monitoring, Ascertia software maintenance

This requirement will be accomplished via:

☒ New Purchase Order

Purchase Order will be:

☒ Firm Fixed Price

Type of Funds:

☒ IT FUNDS (FCP:4210)

3. **Description of Supplies or Services:**

☒ Services

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of Information and Technology (OIT), Enterprise Systems Engineering (ESE), has a requirement for OCSP and CRL, Ascertia software maintenance. The maintenance will provide support for issues and fixes that VA might encounter and any new releases of the software.

Item #	Description	Qty
1	Ascertia OCSP Client Tool Workstation Maintenance and Support	1
2	Ascertia OCSP Crusher Workstation Maintenance and Support	1
3	Ascertia Support, Maintenance and Update Service	1
4	Ascertia Support, Maintenance, and Update Service for:	1
	- Primary CRL Monitor - Support for up to 30 Cas	
	- Secondary CRL Monitor - Support up to 30 in high config	
	- Primary OCSP Monitor - Support for up to 30 OCSPs	
	- Secondary OCSP Monitor for up to 30 OCSPs	

Estimated total price: \$

Period of performance: A base period of 12 months with one (1) 12-month option period.

4. Authority Cited:

☒ Other FAR Authority 6.302-1(c)

The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition is 41 U.S.C.3304(a)(1) as implemented by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 6.302-1 entitled, "Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements."

5. Reason for Authority Cited:

☒ Explain need for brand name:

Based on market research, as described in paragraph 8 of this document, it was determined that limited competition is available for the aforementioned brand name services.

The required software maintenance is critical to ensure the continual functionality of VA's Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), OCSP and CRL. The PKI, OCSP and CRL services are integral to VA's approach to email encryption and system logon, and monitoring the availability of these systems. The required Ascertia software maintenance consists of patches and updates that only Ascertia or a certified reseller of Ascertia products and services can provide. Without the required brand name maintenance for the Ascertia software, ESE would not be able to keep the software updated and performing at optimal levels.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition:

Market Research was conducted, details of which are in the market research section of this document. Although the Government is limiting competition as a result of specifying a brand name, there are at least two (2) resellers of the brand name services. Furthermore, the ordering activity will make publicly available the brand name justification along with the solicitation in accordance with FAR 6.302-1(c)(1)(ii)(C). In accordance with FAR Part 5, this action will not be synopsized at award on the Federal Business Opportunity Page (FBO) due to the dollar threshold.

7. Actions to Increase Competition:

In order to remove or overcome barriers to competition in future acquisitions for this requirement, the Government will continue to conduct market research to ascertain if there are changes in the market place that would enable future actions to be fully competed.

8. Market Research:

☒ The market research consisted of the following:

Market research was conducted in October 2012 by reviewing similar software products from various manufacturers. The market research concluded that Ascertia is the only

software maintenance that would be compatible and interoperable with the existing VA software. Additionally, this requirement is for continued maintenance services to support existing software VA already owns. Only Ascertia, or an authorized reseller of Ascertia products and services, has the proprietary rights to maintain and warranty this software.

In addition, market research was conducted by the Technology Acquisition Center (TAC) in January 2012 utilizing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) IV Contracts website Manufacturer Lookup tool. It was determined that no authorized resellers of Ascertia products and services were available on NASA SEWP. Additionally, a product search was conducted on GSA Schedule 70 to determine if any potential sources existed for this requirement and a Request for Information (RFI) was released on February 1, 2013 on GSA e-Buy. No authorized resellers were found and no responses were received from vendors on GSA Schedule 70. On February 1, 2013, a sources sought notice was released on the FBO to determine if potential sources existed for the above requirement. On February 6, 2013, two (2) vendors responded; both were deemed technically capable of fulfilling this requirement. One (1) company was identified as a service disabled Veteran-owned small business (SDVOSB) and the other a small business. In view of the above, the Request for Quote will be solicited as a 100% small business set-aside on FedBizOpps.

9. Interested Sources:

N/A

10. Technical Certification. I certify that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dale Lewis
IT Specialist / COR

Date: 02-04-2013

Signature:



11. Requirements Certification. I certify that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dale Lewis
IT Specialist / COR

Date: 02-04-2013

Signature:



12. Procuring Contracting Officer Certification. I certify that this justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. As this contract action does not exceed \$650,000, the certification below required by FAR 6.303-2(b)(12) serves as approval.

Carolyn Klein
Contracting Officer

Date: 2/13/2013

Signature:

